

Applicant: Smith et al.
For: A LAUNCHER PLATFORM

1 1. A launcher platform comprising:
2 a support structure; and
3 a plurality of rails mounted on the support structure for
4 supporting missiles thereon,
5 each adjacent rail elevated above the other rails to accommodate
6 additional missiles and different type missiles while maintaining a low
7 center of gravity.

1 2. The launcher platform of claim 1 in which there are six rails total, three
2 on each side of the support structure, and the intermediate rails on each side are elevated
3 above the other rails.

1 3. The launcher platform of claim 1 in which there are N total rails where N
2 is an even number, N/2 rails on each side of the support structure, and the minority of
3 the rails are elevated.

1 4. The launcher platform of claim 1 in which adjacent rails are offset from
2 the other rails.

1 5. The launcher platform of claim 4 in which the offset rails are offset
2 rearwardly from the other rails.

1 6. The launcher platform of claim 4 in which the elevated rails are offset

2 from the other rails.

1 7. The launcher platform of claim 4 in which there are six rails total, three
2 on each side of the support structure, and the intermediate rails on each side are elevated
3 above and offset rearwardly from the other rails.

1 8. The launcher platform of claim 4 in which there are N rails total where N
2 is an even number, $N/2$ rails on each side of the support structure, and the minority of
3 the rails are offset from the other rails.

1 9. The launcher platform of claim 1 in which the support structure is a
2 monolithic platform.

1 10. The launcher platform of claim 9 in which the monolithic platform
2 includes a set of mounting pads for each rail.

1 11. The launcher platform of claim 10 in which the mounting pads are cast
2 as a part of the platform.

1 12. The launcher platform of claim 9 in which the platform has a
2 predetermined width and a predefined length.

1 13. The launcher platform of claim 9 in which the platform is made of
2 aluminum.

1 14. The launcher platform of claim 9 in which the platform is made of a
2 composite material.

1 15. The launcher platform of claim 9 in which the platform has a center line
2 and the rails are symmetrically arranged with respect to the center line of the platform.

1 16. A launcher platform comprising:
2 a support structure; and
3 a plurality of rails mounted on the support structure for
4 supporting missiles thereon,
5 each adjacent rail elevated above and offset rearwardly from the other
6 rails to accommodate additional missiles and different type missiles while
7 maintaining a low center of gravity.

1 17. The launcher platform of claim 16 in which there are six rails total, three
2 on each side of the support structure, and the intermediate rails on each side are elevated
3 above the other rails.

1 18. The launcher platform of claim 16 in which there are N rails total where
2 N is an even number, $N/2$ rails on each side of the support structure, and the minority of
3 the rails are elevated.

1 19. The launcher platform of claim 16 in which there are N rails total where
2 N is an even number, $N/2$ rails on each side of the support structure and the minority of
3 the rails are offset rearwardly from the other rails.

1 20. The launcher platform of claim 16 in which the support structure is a
2 monolithic platform.

1 21. The launcher platform of claim 20 in which the monolithic platform
2 includes a set of mounting pads for each rail.

1 22. The launcher platform of claim 21 in which the mounting pads are cast
2 as a part of the platform.

1 23. The launcher platform of claim 20 in which the platform has a
2 predetermined width and a predefined length.

1 24. The launcher platform of claim 20 in which the platform is made of
2 aluminum.

1 25. The launcher platform of claim 20 in which the platform is made of a
2 composite material.

1 26. The launcher platform of claim 20 in which the platform has a center line
2 and the rails are symmetrically arranged with respect to the centerline of the platform.

TOP SECRET//GSEE//SI

1 27. A launcher platform comprising:
2 a support structure; and
3 a plurality of rails on each side of the support structure, at least
4 one rail on each side elevated above the other rails to accommodate additional missiles
5 and different type missiles.

1 28. The launcher platform of claim 27 in which there are N rails total where
2 N is an even number, $N/2$ rails on each side of the support structure, and the minority of
3 the rails on each side are elevated.

1 29. The launcher platform of claim 27 in which at least one rail is offset
2 from the other rail or rails.

1 30. A launcher platform comprising:
2 a support structure; and
3 a plurality of rails on each side of the support structure, at least
4 one rail on each side offset rearwardly from the other rail or rails to accommodate
5 additional missiles and different type missiles.

1 31. The launcher platform of claim 30 in which at least one rail is elevated
2 above the other rail or rails.